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Claims

1. A programmable device carrying a file system and operating software enabling the on-device file system to interface with at least one off-device file and/or application; the device including means for running a script command to modify the structure and content of the file system, or the commands to be used for accessing the file system, or any security conditions associated therewith; the device being characterised in that the means for running the script is operable to run a plurality of script commands in succession and to use an input/output buffer of the device as an accumulator to allow arithmetic operations on values held in data files or in the accumulator itself under the control of one or more of said script commands.
2. A device according to claim 1 wherein the means for running the script is capable of carrying out a comparison of values and to branch to a predetermined one of the plurality of script commands in dependence on the outcome of the comparison.
3. A device according to claim 1 or 2 wherein values are read from, and written to, data files or the accumulator using the Read Record and Update Record commands of the operating software, respectively.
4. A programmable device according to any preceding claim in which the structure and content of the on-device file system, the commands to be used for accessing the file system and any security conditions associated therewith are defined by at least one file formatted in a web (internet) standard language for self-describing messages.

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5. A programmable device according to any preceding claim in which the web (Internet) standard language for self -describing messages is eXtensible Markup Language ('XML ') and the at least one file is an XML document.
- 5 6. A device according to claim 1 wherein the means for running the script is capable of carrying out an addition or subtraction operations between data in an accumulator and data in a register.
7. A device according to claim 1 wherein the means for running the script is capable of carrying out logic AND, OR and XOR operations between data
- 10 in an accumulator and data in a register.
8. A device according to claim 1 wherein one or more flags can be set and cleared based on the result of the script command executed, such that the flow of the next script or scripts to execute can be logically controlled.